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Customer No. 24498  
Serial No.: 09/719,148  
PF980074

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1.(currently amended): Method for transmitting data in a home communication network comprising a first device and a second device, wherein said first device includes means to produce a data packet and said second device includes means to use said data packet, said method comprising the steps of:

- opening a connection between said first device and said second device;
- having said second device allocate a message buffer to said connection, said second device communicating the message buffer size to said first device;
- having said first device transmit said data packet to said second device, wherein said data packet is split and sent as payload in messages, where the size of the payload of each message is smaller or equal to said message buffer size, and wherein the communication of information concerning the message buffer size between said first device and said second device is at the same network layer level as the communication of messages containing payload.

2.(previously presented): Method according to claim 1, wherein said payloads have a first maximum length independent of said first and second devices and wherein a second maximum length dependent of said second device is constituted by said message buffer size, the shortest of said first and second maximum lengths being retained for sending messages to said second device.

3.(previously presented): Method according to claim 1, wherein said connection is opened by said first device through a function call sent to said second device for writing data to said second device.

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4.(previously presented): Method according to claim 1, wherein said connection is opened by said second device through a function call sent to said first device for reading data from said first device.

5.(previously presented): Method according to claim 1, wherein said first device comprises at least one data storage element for storing said data packet.

6.(previously presented): Method according to claim 5, wherein said first device comprises more than one storage element, each of said storage elements being identified by an identifier.

7.(previously presented): Method according to claim 1, wherein said second device comprises at least one data storage element for storing said data packet.

8.(previously presented): Method according to claim 1, wherein the message buffer size is allocated dynamically.

9.(currently amended): A method for transmitting data in a home communication network comprising a first device and a second device, wherein said first device includes means to produce a data packet and said second device includes means to use said data packet, said method comprising the steps, at the level of the first device, of:

- receiving from said second device a message buffer size allocated by the second device to a connection between the first and second devices;

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- having said first device transmit said data packet to said second device, wherein said data packet is split and sent as payload in messages, where the size of the payload of each message is smaller or equal to said message buffer size, and wherein the communication of information concerning the message buffer size between said first device and said second device is at the same network layer level as the communication of messages containing payload.

10. (New) Method for receiving data in a receiver device, the receiver device being coupled to a transmitter device in home communication network, wherein said transmitter device includes means to produce a data packet and said receiver device includes means to use said data packet, said method comprising the steps of:

allocating a message buffer to a connection between the receiver device and the transmitter device;

communicating the message buffer size to said transmitter device;

receiving from the transmitter device a data packet that is split and sent as payload in messages, where the size of the payload of each message is smaller or equal to said message buffer size, and wherein the step of communicating the message buffer size comprises communicating with the transmitter device the same network layer level as the communication of messages containing payload.

11. (New): Method according to claim 10, wherein said payloads have a first maximum length independent of said first and second devices and wherein a second maximum length dependent of said second device is constituted by said message buffer size, the shortest of said first and second maximum lengths being retained for sending messages to said second device.

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12. (new): Method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of opening a connection by sending a function call to said transmitter device for reading data from said transmitter device.

13. (new): Method according to claim 10, wherein said receiver device comprises at least one data storage element for storing said data packet.

14. (new): Method according to claim 10, wherein the allocating step comprises dynamically allocating the message buffer size.